

**Statement of Rep. Anna G. Eshoo, Chair  
House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence  
Subcommittee on Intelligence Community Management**

**Hearing on Intelligence Community Management Challenges**

**April 1, 2009**

This hearing of the Subcommittee on Intelligence Community Management is called to order. This is our subcommittee's first hearing of the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress. I particularly want to welcome Congresswoman Sue Myrick as Ranking Member of the Subcommittee. I look forward to continuing with her the working relationship that our subcommittee enjoyed in the last Congress with Congressman Darrell Issa.

I'd also like to welcome the Chairman of the full Committee and other members of the Subcommittee including Congressman Rush Holt and all our new members: Congressmen Roy Blunt and Michael Conaway; and my colleagues Alcee Hastings, Jan Schakowsky, and Patrick Murphy.

This morning we will hear from Edward Maguire, Inspector General of the ODNI. Last November, his office issued a report on the "critical leadership and management challenges currently facing the DNI as leader of the Intelligence Community and as

head of the Office of the DNI.” The report covers a wide-range of shortcomings at the ODNI. In particular, it addresses the failures of past DNIs to provide enough attention to integrating and managing the community.

The Subcommittee knows that the management challenges facing the new DNI are enormous. The criticisms in the report are structural, not partisan. Now we have a new Director who can take a fresh look at these issues. I am optimistic that Director Blair will be able to meet the challenge of being the President’s chief intelligence officer and make real progress in managing the community. This hearing will allow us to establish a baseline for his tenure.

In the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, we held hearings on Director McConnell’s 100-Day and 500-Day Plans to implement reforms mandated by the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (IRPTA), as well as on some of the specific reform areas, principally the security clearance process. We all have a great interest in it, particularly the Chairman. We have been repeatedly disappointed by the lack of clarity in the role of the DNI.

The Intelligence Reform Act was enacted to create a single individual to lead the intelligence community, with authorities for managing the budget, personnel, and tasking of the National Intelligence Program. These authorities should allow the Director of National Intelligence to establish a common mission, coordinate agency efforts and intelligence.

I, for one, don't believe that the vision laid out in Intelligence Reform Act has been met. We still do not have a clear definition of the DNI's role, or a clear view of how the agencies should work together. While each agency performs a unique role, this individuality need not prevent common sharing of information, managing personnel, nor acquiring systems.

As the testimony of our witness will show, previous DNIs were unable to state clearly what their mission was. While we have had many well-meaning people working hard to coordinate the intelligence community, often these efforts were at cross-purposes with other parts of the organization.

According to the Inspector General's Report, the DNI faces five major challenges:

1. Strengthening leadership and governance.
2. Accelerating progress in driving IC information sharing.
3. Removing impediments to IC collaboration and integration.
4. Improving financial management and acquisition oversight.
5. Resolving major legal issues.

I believe that this report is a particularly appropriate place for us to begin the subcommittee's oversight this Congress, especially for the new members. It identifies the community-wide challenges that remain over four years after the enactment of the Intelligence Reform Act, and it raises the same criticism that led Congress to the act in the first place.

Finally, let me say that we will offer Director Blair an opportunity later on in the year to respond to these criticisms and give him a chance to tell Congress how he plans to address them. I am confident that he understands the seriousness of the challenge before him, and we all look forward to hearing his answers.

Before we turn to our witness, I'd like to recognize Mrs. Myrick for any remarks she wishes to make.